



House of Representatives

File No. 642

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

(Reprint of File No. 291)

Substitute House Bill No. 6383
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 26, 2013

AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Athletic director" means an individual responsible for
4 administering the athletic program of a school or school district under
5 the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, and who is
6 responsible for the supervision of athletic coaches.

7 (2) "Athletic coach" means any person holding a coaching permit
8 issued by the State Board of Education who is hired by a local or
9 regional board of education to coach a sport for a sport season as part
10 of intramural and interscholastic athletics for a school or a school
11 district.

12 (3) "School professional" means any school teacher, administrator or
13 other personnel certified by the State Board of Education pursuant to

14 section 10-145b of the general statutes.

15 (b) (1) On and after October 1, 2013, any person hired by a local or
16 regional board of education to serve as an athletic director for (A) a
17 school shall hold a (i) certificate issued by the State Board of Education
18 pursuant to section 10-145b of the general statutes and a coaching
19 permit issued by the state board, or (ii) certificate issued by a national
20 athletic administrators association, as approved by the Department of
21 Education, and a coaching permit issued by the state board, or (B) a
22 school district shall hold a (i) certificate issued by the state board
23 pursuant to section 10-145b of the general statutes with an
24 intermediate administrator and supervisor endorsement and a
25 coaching permit issued by the state board, or (ii) master certificate
26 issued by a national athletic administrators association, as approved by
27 the department, and a coaching permit issued by the state board.

28 (2) Any person who was serving as a director of athletics prior to
29 October 1, 2013, in accordance with subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of
30 subsection (b) of section 10-145d-423 of the regulations of Connecticut
31 state agencies and who does not meet the qualifications described in
32 subdivision (1) of this subsection may continue to serve as an athletic
33 director in such school or for such school district. No other local or
34 regional board of education shall hire such person as an athletic
35 director unless such person meets the qualifications described in
36 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

37 (c) An athletic director administering the athletic program of a
38 school or school district shall have the following responsibilities: (1)
39 Ensuring that each athletic coach in the athletic program holds a
40 coaching permit issued by the state board, (2) supervising and
41 evaluating athletic coaches, pursuant to section 10-222e of the general
42 statutes, as amended by this act, (3) supervising students participating
43 in interscholastic athletics, (4) possessing knowledge and
44 understanding of all rules and regulations of the governing authority
45 for interscholastic athletics, (5) administering and arranging the
46 scheduling of and transportation to athletic activities and events, (6)

47 administering and arranging the hiring of officials, (7) ensuring a safe
48 and healthy environment for all athletic activities and events, and (8)
49 any other duties relevant to the organization and administration of the
50 athletic program for the school or school district.

51 (d) Any athletic director responsible for the evaluation of any school
52 professional shall hold a certificate issued by the State Board of
53 Education, pursuant to section 10-145b of the general statutes, with an
54 intermediate administrator and supervisor endorsement.

55 Sec. 2. Section 10-222e of the general statutes is repealed and the
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

57 (a) [Local and regional boards of education that employ athletic
58 coaches shall require the coaches' immediate supervisor to evaluate
59 such coaches on an annual basis and to provide such coaches with
60 copies of such evaluations.] Any local or regional board of education
61 that employs an athletic coach, as defined in section 1 of this act, shall
62 require the athletic director, as defined in section 1 of this act, or the
63 immediate supervisor of such coach to evaluate, in accordance with
64 the provisions of section 1 of this act, such coach on an annual basis
65 and provide such coach with a copy of such evaluation.

66 (b) Any local or regional board of education acting directly, or
67 through its duly authorized agent, that terminates or declines to renew
68 the coaching contract of an athletic coach who has served in the same
69 coaching position for three or more consecutive school years shall
70 inform such coach of such decision no later than ninety days after the
71 completion of the sport season covered by the contract. Such coach
72 shall have an opportunity to appeal such decision to the local or
73 regional board of education in a manner prescribed by such local or
74 regional board of education. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a
75 local or regional board of education from terminating the coaching
76 contract of an athletic coach at any time (1) for reasons of moral
77 misconduct, insubordination or a violation of the rules of the board of
78 education, or (2) because a sport has been cancelled by the board of

79 education.

80 [(c) For the purposes of this section, "athletic coach" means any
81 person holding a coaching permit who is hired by a local or regional
82 board of education to coach for a sport season.]

83 Sec. 3. Section 10-149 of the general statutes is repealed and the
84 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

85 The State Board of Education shall, pursuant to chapter 54, adopt
86 regulations fixing the qualifications of athletic coaches, as defined in
87 section 1 of this act, of intramural and interscholastic athletics. Such
88 regulations shall make provision for qualified persons who do not
89 possess a teaching certificate to coach intramural and interscholastic
90 athletics if a qualified person possessing a teaching certificate is not
91 available.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-222e
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-149

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which creates hiring standards and establishes duties for schools and school district athletic directors, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the changes are procedural in nature.

House "A" alters the effective date of **Section 1**, narrows the field of individuals who can be grandfathered in, makes changes to the Athletic Director's responsibilities regarding officials and intramurals, and makes other technical and conforming changes, none of which will result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6383 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill creates hiring standards for school and school district athletic directors, requires that all directors hired on or after October 1, 2013 meet the new standards, and permits those hired before that date to continue in their current job even if they do not meet the new standards. It also establishes duties for all school and school district athletic directors.

It also makes conforming changes.

***House Amendment "A":**

1. specifies that an athletic director hired before the bill's effective date must meet the current director qualifications stated in regulations in order to continue in their current job,
2. changes the effective date to October 1, 2013,
3. removes supervising intramural athletics from the list of athletic director's duties, and
4. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STANDARDS

The bill defines "athletic director" as someone responsible for (1) administering the athletic program of a school or school district under

a local or regional board of education and (2) supervising athletic coaches.

The bill establishes two levels of athletic director qualifications, one for school director and one for school district director. Both standards apply to those hired on or after October 1, 2013.

New Standards

A school athletic director must hold a State Board of Education (SBE)-issued coaching permit and a (1) state teaching certificate or (2) national athletic administrators association-issued certificate, as approved by the State Department of Education (SDE).

A school district director must hold a SBE-issued coaching permit and a (1) state teacher's certificate with an intermediate administrator and supervisor endorsement or (2) national athletic administrators association-issued master certificate, as approved by SDE.

Under the bill, any director responsible for evaluating coaches who are certified teachers, administrators, or other certified school staff must hold a state teacher's certificate with an intermediate administrator and supervisor endorsement.

Existing Athletic Directors

School or school district athletic directors hired before October 1, 2013, who do not meet the new standards can continue to serve in their current positions if they meet the current director qualifications stated in regulations. The regulations require (1) nonsupervisory directors at a school to hold a coaching permit, (2) supervisory directors at a school to hold a permit and teacher's certificate, and (3) district directors or directors who evaluate certified staff to hold a teacher's certificate with an endorsement for intermediate administration or supervision.

The bill prevents any local or regional board of education from hiring a person "grandfathered" in at another district for its district, unless the person can meet the bill's standards.

DIRECTOR DUTIES

The bill states an athletic director's responsibilities, which apply whether the person directs a program for a school or a district. They include:

1. ensuring that each athletic coach in the athletic program holds a SBE-issued coaching permit;
2. supervising and evaluating athletic coaches, according to the bill's provisions;
3. supervising students participating in interscholastic athletics;
4. possessing knowledge and understanding of the governing authority for interscholastic athletics and the related rules and regulations;
5. administering and arranging the scheduling of and transportation to athletic activities and events;
6. administering and arranging the hiring of officials;
7. ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all athletic activities and events; and
8. any other duties relevant to the organization and administration of the athletic program for the school or school district.

The bill also makes conforming changes to the law requiring coaches to be evaluated by their supervisors annually.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 1 (03/13/2013)